

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated July 29, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated November 24, 2003.

The Abstract has been amended in accordance with the requirement of the Examiner.

In the Advisory Action the Examiner indicated that claim 1 included new matter. The new matter indicated by the Examiner has been deleted from the claim.

Claims 8 and 9 were indicated as requiring further consideration and search. These claims are being resubmitted for further consideration and search.

The Advisory Action indicated that claims 6 and 8 avoided rejection under Section 112, first paragraph, and claims 1-7 avoided rejection under Section 112, second paragraph. Favorable consideration of claims 1-8 is requested.

Also, the Advisory Action indicated that claims 1,4,5,7 and 9 avoided rejection under Section 102(a). Favorable reconsideration of these claims is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 6 has been amended so that claim 6 specifies that the structural frame surrounds the sheath, and claim 8 has been amended to recite that the sheath is affixed to the elongated flexible support member.

Claim 1 was rejected as indefinite because claim 1 recites the limitations of “the uncoiled position” and “the inner surface” in lines 15 and 17. At the suggestion of the Examiner, the expression “the” has been changed to --an--in both clauses.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 9 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clouse in view of Lam.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the language recited above:

1. ---- said support rods being attached to the tubular sheath for at least a portion thereof;
a plurality of expandable ring stents longitudinally displaced from each other internally of said tubular sheath; ---.

Since claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, these claims include the same limitations.

Independent claim 8 was not rejected on prior art but only as being indefinite under § 112.

With regard to claim 9, the Examiner stated in the Response to Arguments as follows:

The way claim 9 is currently written, it is not required that the elongated flexible support members be expanded by the balloon expanded ring stents, but only that the ring stents are structurally capable of expanding them.

Claim 9 has been amended to include this language:

9. --- said ring stents and said elongated flexible support members are configured so that the elongated flexible support members are expanded by the balloon-expanded ring stents in response to the inflation of a balloon catheter to various diameters for causing said device to engage an irregularly shaped vessel, and ---.

Applicant submits that the claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner and they adequately read over the applied prior art.

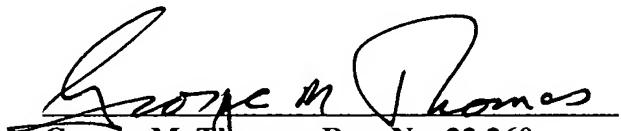
SUMMARY

It is submitted that all of the claims should now be in condition for allowance.

The claims of the application have been amended directly in response to the Examiner's rejections as to form and substance. The application should now be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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